

NEWS.

PROFESSOR DR. FR. SACCARDO, of the Avellino School of Viticulture and Enology, died recently in Avellino, South Italy.

THE GOVERNMENT of Dutch India has appropriated \$6000 for the erection of a research laboratory at the Buitenzorg garden.

MR. C. G. PRINGLE has returned from his annual trip into the more unknown regions of Mexico, with about 20,000 specimens.

MISS MARY A. NICHOLS, who received the degree of Sc.D. at Cornell last June, is carrying on special studies in the herbarium of Columbia University in connection with her work in teaching in New York City.

DR. ALEXANDER P. ANDERSON, who has been completing some research work at the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been appointed Professor of Botany at Clemson College, South Carolina, having entered upon his duties January 1.

MR. M. A. HOWE, formerly instructor in the University of California, is engaged in graduate work at the Columbia University. He is working up the bryophytes of California, having made very extensive collections during his residence there.

ACCORDING TO Wildeman, the known alga flora of Belgium, including both marine and fresh water forms, contains 1179 species, distributed as follows: Chlorophyceæ (incl. Characeæ) 387, Diatomaceæ 613, Phaeophyceæ 51, Florideæ 78, Cyanophyceæ 50.

M. L. GUIGNARD, as the representative of the Academy of Sciences, gave a brief address at the funeral of M. Trécul, which is printed in *Jour. de Botanique* (Nov. 1). It is very brief, but full of interesting information concerning the botanist and the man.

MR. E. G. LODEMAN, instructor in horticulture in Cornell University, a scientific horticulturist of great promise, and author of *The spraying of plants*, one of Macmillan's Rural Science Series, died by his own hand December 2, at Mexico, N. Y., during an acute attack of melancholia.

MR. E. O. WOOTON, recently professor of botany in the Agricultural College of New Mexico, is a graduate student at Columbia University, and is

engaged in a special study of the flora of New Mexico, having made extensive collections in that territory during his five years' residence there. He is expecting to spend considerable time during next summer in additional field work in that region.

DR. B. D. HALSTED has printed a syllabus of six extension lectures upon the subject of fungous diseases of cultivated plants. As the selection of subjects for such courses is sometimes a puzzling question it is of interest to know that the subjects of this syllabus are Fungi injurious to (1) field and root crops, (2) orchard crops, (3) small fruits, (4) vegetable fruits, (5) vegetables, (6) ornamental plants.

PROFESSOR KOCH, by direction of the German government, has gone to South Africa to investigate the rinderpest, an exceedingly contagious disease affecting cattle. An investigation of this disease was made in 1868 by the British, but no result of scientific value was obtained. With the far better bacteriological methods of today it is to be hoped that Professor Koch may obtain more definite results.

MR. JOHN C. WILLIE, who has succeeded the late Dr. Trimen as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, Ceylon, is desirous of developing scientific research in connection with his laboratory. The gardens are very large, and the flora is as rich and probably less "worked" than that at Buitenzorg. Mr. Willie hopes to call the favorable attention of students to the advantages offered by Peradeniya.

AT THE MEETING of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, held December 21, 1896, Mr. H. von Schrenk made some remarks upon the parasitism of lichens, illustrated especially by the long hanging forms of *Usnea barbata*, common on Juniperus, etc., on Long Island, N. Y. It was shown that these lichens do not penetrate below the outer periderm of the host, and consequently are not to be regarded as true parasites, but that they frequently cause the death of the latter by suffocation. As Schimper has noted for the long moss of the south, *Tillandsia usneoides*, the plant is capable of dissemination by wind and birds, and of growing in new stations without attachment